

Amendments

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ An isolated nucleic acid that encodes the coat protein of Mirafiori lettuce virus, comprising (a) or (b) below:

(a) a nucleic acid that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) the nucleic acid of (a) that ~~encodes~~ comprises a coding region of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

2. (Currently amended): The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is an RNA.

3. (Currently amended): The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is a DNA.

4. (Currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ An isolated DNA that encodes a sense RNA comprising at least 15 nucleic acids that is at least about 90% complementary to, and hybridizes with, [[the]] a nucleic acid that is 100% complementary strand of the nucleic acid of claim 2 to an RNA that encodes the coat protein of Mirafiori lettuce virus, comprising (a) or (b) below:

(a) a nucleic acid that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) the nucleic acid of (a) that encodes comprises a coding region of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

5. (Currently amended): [[A]] An isolated DNA that encodes an antisense RNA comprising at least 15 nucleic acids that is at least about 90% complementary to, and hybridizes with, the nucleic acid of claim 2 an RNA that encodes the coat protein of Mirafiori lettuce virus, comprising (a) or (b) below:

(a) a nucleic acid that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) the nucleic acid of (a) that encodes comprises a coding region of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

6. (Withdrawn-currently amended): [[A]] An isolated DNA that encodes an RNA having ribozyme activity to specifically cleave the nucleic acid of claim 2.

7. (Original): A vector that comprises the nucleic acid of claim 3.

8. (Previously presented): A transformed cell comprising the nucleic acid according to claim 3.

9. (Currently amended): [[A]] An isolated Mirafiori lettuce virus coat protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 1.

10. (Withdrawn): An antibody that binds to the protein of claim 9.

11. (Currently amended): A method for producing the protein according to claim 9, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

(a) culturing ~~[[the]]~~ a transformed cell of claim 8 or claim 21 comprising a nucleic acid that encodes the coat protein of Mirafiori lettuce virus, comprising:

(i) a nucleic acid that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID: 2, or

(ii) the nucleic acid of (i) that comprises a coding region of the nucleotide sequence of SEA ID NO: 1,

or a vector comprising the nucleic acid of (a); and

(b) recovering the expressed protein from said transformed cell or its culture supernatant.

12. (Previously presented): A vector comprising the DNA according to claim 4.

13-16. (Canceled).

17. (Withdrawn): A method for diagnosing Mirafiori lettuce virus infection, wherein said method comprises the step of:

detecting the nucleic acid of claim 1 or the protein of claim 9 in a plant cell or in *Olpidium brassicae*, which is a fungal vector of Mirafiori lettuce virus.

18. (Previously presented): A vector comprising the DNA according to claim 5.

19. (Withdrawn): A vector comprising the DNA according to claim 6.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously presented): A transformed cell comprising the vector according to claim 7.

22. (New): A transformed plant cell which carries the nucleic acid according to claim 1, the DNA according to any one of claims 4 through 6, or the vector according to any one of claims 7, 12, 18 or 19.

23. (New): A transformed plant that comprises the transformed plant cell of claim 22.

24. (New): A transformed plant that is a progeny or clone of the transformed plant of claim 23, wherein the progeny comprises the nucleic acid according to claim 1, the DNA according to any one of claims 4 through 6, or the vector according to any one of claims 7, 12, 18 or 19.

25. (New): A propagation material of the transformed plant according to claim 23.

26. (New): The isolated DNA of claim 4, wherein said sense RNA comprises at least 100 nucleic acids.

27. (New): The isolated DNA of claim 4, wherein said sense RNA comprises at least 1000 nucleic acids.

28. (New): The isolated DNA of claim 4, wherein said sense RNA is at least about 95% complementary.

29. (New): The isolated DNA of claim 4, wherein said sense RNA is 100% complementary.

30. (New): The isolated DNA of claim 5, wherein said antisense RNA comprises at least 100 nucleic acids.

31. (New): The isolated DNA of claim 5, wherein said antisense RNA comprises at least 1000 nucleic acids.

32. (New): The isolated DNA of claim 5, wherein said antisense RNA is at least about 95% complementary.

33. (New): The isolated DNA of claim 5, wherein said antisense RNA is 100% complementary.

34. (New): An isolated DNA that encodes a sense RNA comprising at least 15 nucleic acids that is at least about 90% complementary to a nucleic acid that is 100% complementary to bases 87-1400 of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

35. (New): The isolated DNA of claim 34, wherein said sense RNA comprises at least 100 nucleic acids.

36. (New): The isolated DNA of claim 34, wherein said sense RNA comprises at least 1000 nucleic acids.

37. (New): The isolated DNA of claim 34, wherein said sense RNA is at least about 95% complementary.

38. (New): The isolated DNA of claim 34, wherein said sense RNA is 100% complementary.

39. (New): An isolated DNA that encodes an antisense RNA comprising at least 15 nucleic acids that is at least about 90% complementary to bases 87-1400 of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

40. (New): The isolated DNA of claim 39, wherein said antisense RNA comprises at least 100 nucleic acids.

41. (New): The isolated DNA of claim 39, wherein said antisense RNA comprises at least 1000 nucleic acids.

42. (New): The isolated DNA of claim 39, wherein said antisense RNA is at least about 95% complementary.

43. (New): The isolated DNA of claim 39, wherein said antisense RNA is 100% complementary.